

Some Seasonable

QUERIES.

On the Second Head, viz.

An Oath of Abjuration, or at least Declarative of His Majesty's Right.

1. **D** Oth not that pernicious Distinction of a King, *de Facto*, and *de Jure*, than which nothing could have been thought of more Injurious to His Majesty's Title render such an Oath absolutely necessary? For that otherwise by the Oath now appointed (notwithstanding the false Pretences of some to the contrary) we can never distinguish between our Enemies and our Friends, for the Pope, or the French King himself, if in England, might *salvo Conscientia* take the present Oath in a *de facto* Sense.

2. Was not that Distinction first broach'd upon this occasion with a mischievous Design? And did not the first Starter of it among us, deserve rather a Suspension; I mean such as *Haman* at last met with, than the Promotion he now enjoys? And is he not fairly intitled to it by the *Act*, 1. *William* and *Mary*?

3. Is he not however, impudently treated by some, who bespatter him with the vile titles of *Turn-Coach*, *Temporizer*, and I know not what? When he, good Man! sticks close to his old Principle, and still believes his *quondam* Master, to be our only Legal and *de jure* King.

4. Was not the late *A. B.* strangely imposed on, and as well in this, as other Matters discovered a great weakness in not observing the Snake in the Grass, and in preferring a Man for a rotten Opinion, to which we are in a great measure beholdling for all that *Petty* and *Treachery* that's to be found among us? And which makes an Oath Declarative of the King's Right absolutely necessary.

5. Is it not reasonable? Is it not just to leave the now King, who hath done so much for us, and more than any of his Predecessors ever did, under the same assurances of our Loyalty and Faithfulness that they had? Is there not in the former Oaths, now abrogated, an Abjuration of the Rights or Titles of any other Person? Is there not a Declaration and acknowledgment, before God and the world, of the King's Lawful Title to this Realm, exclusive to all others?

Is there not a Swearing to the plain and common Sense of the Words, without Equivocation, mental Evasion, or secret Reservation? All which are wanting in the Oath of Fidelity now enjoin'd, and which is all we desire in the Oath of Abjuration, so much, and so unreasonably opposed.

6. Is not the Oath of Fidelity required by the Constitution of this Monarchy an Oath of Abjuration, either express'd or implied, and always as to a King of Right, with an inclusive Abjuration of the Pretences of any other Person whatsoever? And was not the old Oath of Fidelity which all were to take in the Court Leet at 12 Years of age, and which may be still required more expressive of the duty of the Subject, than the Oath appointed by the late *Act*?

7. If the Oath now enjoin'd mentions nothing of the Right of his Majesty, and many who have taken that Oath, have done it only as to the Possessor of the Throne, (as they themselves own) Is not this plain, that they believe him not our Right Sovereign Lord, but an Interloacher upon the Right of a Prince, whose Right still continues?

May not these Men go yet farther, and by their avow'd Principles take an Oath to His Majesty, as having a *Loyal* Right, and that they will defend him in that Right; and yet not think themselves obliged to defend him against him, whom they suppose to have the Divine Right, unless he be Abjured by Name; and we declare that *James*, lately King of *England*, hath no Right or Title to the Crown: which yet need not obstruct our living peaceably, and submitting to God's Providence; if it should be his pleasure to Re-establish him upon the Throne.

8. Would not such an Oath lay a strict Tie to renounce his Right, and faithfully to espouse that of his present Majesty, even upon those Men, who think themselves not obliged by the present Oath? For tho they may, by their own, or Dr. *S*—*k*'s false Glosses and Interpretations of the present Oath stifle their Convictions; yet there being no Evasion yet invented against this Oath, their

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their very Conscience, if Christians, especially if Protestants, would deter them from a violation of it.

10. Should they venture Damnation in Perjuring themselves, is it likely they would (as they must by violating this Oath) do it in such a manner, that the world must pronounce them wilfully perjured, and necessitate them to throw off their Mask, and be thereby rendered useless and despicable to their very Party?

11. Tho those Subjects who are Friends to this Government upon a Principle (as all good Protestants must be) cannot be tied faster by an Oath of Abjuration, and so may seem needless as to them, yet would not the honor of the Government (which hath suffered most by the Reproaches of pretended Friends) be thereby vindicated, and its continuance and strength secured, when by an Oath they would proclaim their being engag'd in its defence against the late King by Name; and all other Enemies whatsoever?

12. Could any thing strike more terror to our Enemies, or give greater encouragement to our Friends, than to see all the Men, in Office at least, and especially those of great Trust; sworn Brethren in a Cause, and engaged by an Oath, which must necessarily involve all those that break it, as well in formal as material Perjury; Whereas before, the fears of Treachery from the number of Enemies within, who seemingly come into the Government, but are really against it, might weaken and despirit them in the service.

13. If there never had been an Oath of Abjuration before, as some would ignorantly suggest, yet is it not necessary there should be one now? And if not in frequent use heretofore, or seldom extended to the Abjuring of one particular person, Was it not because it was the settled Judgement of the people before us, that no other Person besides the King Reigning, had any Right to the Crown, and were Strangers to that Member of our unhappy Distinction, of a de facto King?

14. Can we think any thing too much for him who hath done so much for us? Who saved us before he Ruled us; to whom we owe not only our Religion, our Liberties, but our very Lives and every thing else we can call our own; and all he has yet got by it, is, but still to expose his sacred Person for the Security of our Nation. And the enlarging his Empire, hath only increased his Dangers, and his Care, for the Safety of those he Governs: Who is not only the Preserver of our State, but (which is the most excellent of all Titles) the Defender of our Faith; which tho' others claim'd of Course, he best deserves; since to him it is owing, that the true Faith is

publicly profess'd any where, and now among us, without Cruelty or Persecution? And has in his late Directions (God knows needful enough) to his ~~Archbishops~~ and Bishops, in relation to that blasphemous and spreading Heretic of Socinianism, given us a Specimen of his great Care and Concern for the Union of our Church, and the Purity of our Faith. In a word, what can we do too much to Secure him, who has made us every way secure and safe? And who by giving his Royal assent to the Act relating to Treason, &c. hath given us a Law which the Nation so much long'd for, and for which ten or twelve years ago, we would have given half of what we had, by which he hath Secur'd us from the Malice of Informers, the Perjury of Witnesses, and the Severity of by alt. or Corrupt Judges. Surely, such Care, such Condescension, such Tenderness, such provisions for our Lives and our Liberties; our good Names, and our Fortunes, may very justly require suitable Returns, in rendering him as secure as any Oath can make him; and in owning him against all the World, to be our Benefactor, our Deliverer, the best of Princes; and the Common Father of our Country; whom God long preserve, and let all that love the welfare and happiness of Great Britain and Ireland, say, Amen.

The old Oath of Fealty which all Men were to take in the Court Leet at 12 years of Age.

YOU shall Swear, that from this day forward, You shall be True and Faithful to our Sovereign Lord, King James and His Heirs, and Faith and Truth shall bear of Life, and Limb, and Torment Honour, and you shall not know nor hear of any ill or damage intended to him, that you shall not offend, so Helpe you Almighty God.

The Form of an Assurance to the present Government required by an Act of Parliament in Scotland, to be taken by all People in any Trust or Power, through that Kingdom.

JA B. **D**O in the Sincerity of my Heart, affirm, and acknowledge, and declare, That Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, are the only lawful undoubted Sovereigns of this Realm, as well de jure, that is of Right King and Queen as de facto; that is in the Possession and Exercise of the Government. And therefore, I do solemnly, and faithfully Promise and Engage, That I with mine and hand, Life and Goods, maintain and defend Their Majesties Title and Government, against the late King James, and his Adherents, and all other Enemies, who either by open or secret Attempts, shall disturb and disquiet Their Majesties in the Possession and exercise thereof.